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## FRANCHISE BILL KICKED TO DEATH

MANY REASONS GIVEN FOR NOT VOTING FOR IT  
—SENATOR TRAMMELL MAKES ABLE SPEECH  
FOR BILL, BUT VOTE AGAINST IT WAS ON  
SLATE WHEN SENATE MET.

Conservatism, as preached from the corporation Bible of Florida—the Times-Union—prevailed in the Senate yesterday.

Nineteen Senators subscribed to the faith of this gospel—seventeen by vote and two through pairing, and by application of the chosen text of conservatism, the Trammell franchise bill died.

Ten voted for its passage; two more were paired.

So the people had twelve apostles—voting.

These were—

Senators Cone, Cottrell, Crews, Jackson, Leggett, Massey, Neel, Trammell, West of the 4th, Zim, and Hudson and Girardeau, who were paired.

Those in the "guard of conservatism," as directed by the corporation bible—the doctrine preached by Evangelist Peter Knight, were—

Mr. President, Senators Adams, Alford, Baker, Beard, Broome, Buckman, Clarke, Crane, Crill, Davis, Henderson, McCreary, Sams, Willis, Withers, West of the 1st, and Canova and Humphries, who were paired.

So the bill "failed to pass."

Peter Knight arose, stretched his tired limbs, lighted a fresh cigar with a red band, and smiled; his day's work was done.

He had done the best he could, and the people of Florida were also "done."

### CONSIDERATION OF THE BILL.

Nearly six hours were devoted to consideration of the substitute for Senate Bill No. 8 yesterday, Senator Trammell speaking for the measure about three and one-half hours.

Speaking to his motion to reconsider the vote by which the substitute for bill No. 8 was adopted, Senator Trammell said his object was to have both the original and the substitute bill brought before the Senate for consideration.

This remark caused Senator Adams to bring out his best brand of sarcasm in reply. He said: "This motion leads me into the position not to know what the Senator wants. I confess to you I can't understand what he is trying to do."

"He introduced one bill and then another," continued Senator Adams, "and yesterday he offered a substitute for the first bill, and to-day he wants them both considered."

After speaking in this strain for a few moments, ridiculing Senator Trammell's motion, he said: "I do not think this is the time for such legislation; the State is not ready for it."

Senator Harris said that the bill had been read the second time, and was then up for third reading and passage. His point of order was not sustained, and Senator Cone offered an amendment providing that the fund arising from the operation of the bill be placed in the public school fund.

Senator Beard offered an amendment to strike out "gross receipts" and substitute "net earnings," to which Senator Trammell objected, saying that it would destroy the purpose of the bill.

"Under such provision," said Senator Trammell, "the tax would be avoided. Invariably the Supreme Court has said that a satisfactory statement of net earnings by corporations would not be made. This amendment would kill the bill."

"I would tax the corporations on what they have earned," said Senator Beard, "and not on the gross receipts, which would be unjust."

Senator Cone objected to the amendment, as the tax on net earnings would not be satisfactory. Senator Girardeau also objected.

Then Senator Broome took a hand, stating: "I am rather inclined to the statement, but I am opposed to the bill."

"Would any one introduce a bill to compel the farmer to pay a franchise tax upon his gross receipts?" he continued. "The liquor men are not taxed on gross receipts. Why single out corporations? I am here for justice. I don't know friend or foe on this floor, but vote for my honest convictions. I belong to no faction now; I am a free lance in politics. I helped to lead my faction to victory, but I could see no more virtue in my faction in power than in the faction that was out of power."

Here Senator Trammell made the point of order that a substitute once adopted could not be amended.

The chair (Senator West of the 1st) sustained it.

Senator Cone moved to put the bill back to second reading, but was declared out of order.

Senator Harris made the motion to waive the rules and put the bill on third reading. He was seconded by Senator Trammell, and the motion was adopted, and the fight was on.

Senator Trammell then took the floor in behalf of the bill, and spoke until one o'clock, when adjournment was

Peter O. Knight, dispenser of Red Top rye and Red Band cigars—

Peter O. Knight, paid by the Seaboard Air Line railway—

Peter O. Knight, paid by Stone and Webster, the street railway monopolists—

Peter O. Knight, who preaches the doctrine that the vested interests must rule the State—

Peter O. Knight, the most adroit, the most brazen, the most successful lobbyist ever seen in Tallahassee—

Openly declared his purpose to defeat the Trammell Franchise Tax bill—

And the bill failed to pass the Senate.

taken until three o'clock, he then finishing his speech, ending a few minutes after four.

It was a complete exposition of the situation to be covered by a franchise tax and so thoroughly was the subject expressed, the authorities quoted, and the reasons given why such tax be applied in this State that the opposition, in replying, did not successfully contest any position taken by Senator Trammell.

It is doubtful, however, if a vote was changed by it. The slate was made up when the Senate convened yesterday morning, and if any reason existed for spending the day in debate it was solely for the purpose of making a record for public consumption.

Senator Trammell, himself, knew the slight prospect of the bill, but he was determined to defend it and himself from the assaults of the corporation hirelings so freely heard by the committee.

That he ably did so, nobody can deny, and as potent proof of the strength of his argument it remained unbroken when assaulted by his opponents with the warmed-over parts of speech used by Peter Knight when addressing the committee.

Beginning his address, Senator Trammell said: "The system of a franchise tax is no more unjust than any other in the general scheme of taxation."

"All forms of taxation work harshly in some instances. A scheme of taxation can not be evolved that will not cause hardship to some person, but it is necessary for the public good. So it is with the franchise tax. It is possible that some might feel the burden, but that is no reason why the public should be the loser."

"Corporations would have you believe that they are immune from taxation of this kind, and if they are not making as much money as they wish, ask to be relieved from taxation, but the merchant is not asked if he has made money when it comes time for him to pay his taxes."

"A corporation, however, must be allowed to make money on its investment. That is the plea of all who oppose such taxation."

The corporation chattel of Florida was then referred to by Senator Trammell, who asked: "Why has the Times-Union been jumping on this proposition and advising the members of the Legislature how they shall vote?"

"Charged with being owned by railway companies, and it has not denied the charge, it denounces the franchise tax and the author of these bills, and calls for votes against it. Shall we always do the bidding of the railroads and neglect the interests of the people?"

"The Times-Union talks of the franchise tax as a species of demagoguery, and declares the interests of the State are imperiled. It has attacked this bill because the corporate interests have declared war against such tax, and try to appeal to the people through the organ of railway ownership."

Speaking of the value of franchises, Senator Trammell declared it was a fixed fact and so estimated in business transactions, yet in this State there was objection to taxing such values. Other things were taxed, and, too, not on their physical value, but according to business done.

"The railroads are not paying taxes on their physical property on the same basis as the private citizen," declared the Senator. Railroad property has increased in value, but assessments have not been increased, but the private citizen can not escape when his property increases in value.

"We are told of the depression that would follow the adoption of a franchise tax. This has been the cry in other States when the question has been agitated, but the promised depression never followed. It is the same old argument always heard when there is proposed legislation against the corporations."

"It was heard in this State when a tax of two per cent was placed on the gross receipts of insurance companies. The threat was made that companies would withdraw from the State. But instead of withdrawals the number has increased despite the tax."

"When all else fails unconstitutionality is urged as a reason for not passing legislation affecting a corporation. Pay no attention to it, as it is a device to deceive the people."

Senator Trammell referred to many court decisions in support of the bill, and showed that such a tax was not new, having been introduced in 1854 in Massachusetts, where a tax was placed on the gross receipts of public utilities.

Many other States were mentioned as having the tax, and court reports on various cases were instanced in connection therewith, in which the constitutional right to levy the tax was upheld.

Taking some of these decisions for his text, Senator

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## HOUSE PASSED PINELLAS BILL

SECESSIONISTS LINED UP VERY MUCH AS THEY DID ON  
MOTION TO POSTPONE—ACTION OF HOUSE GIVES  
HOPE TO OTHER DIVIDERS.

Cordoned about with a force of the faithful who stood unwaveringly through the contest for the division of Hillsborough county, the diffident Decker yesterday led his forces to victory in the House and the county of Pinellas is a living entity—so far as the House can make it.

The House action is regarded as equivalent to final enactment; though the bill is in the technical position of a postulate, this is relieved by the assurance that no fight will be made on it in the Senate.

The House lined up very much as it did Wednesday on the vote to postpone indefinitely. There were some changes, but only some. The greater number of those who voted against postponement voted for the bill.

Representative Decker of Hillsborough, who has espoused the cause of the divisionists against his brother Representative Dudley, submitted the bill yesterday without further remarks.

Mr. Decker stated only when the bill came up for third reading that he thought the question had been discussed sufficiently for the members to be familiar with its merits. For this reason he did not think it necessary to take up further time.

The roll call developed 28 yeas; 23 nays. Those who voted for the bill were:

Messrs. Calkins, Crawford, Decker, Dorman, DuPont, Farris, Faulkner, Geiger, Hartsfield, Kilgore, Kirkland, Knight (Columbia), Lassiter, Long, McCutcheon, McKensie, Milliner, Olmstead, Parkinson, Paul, Peoples, Reese, Register, Richbourg, Taylor, Willis (Gadsden), Willis (Levy), Williams—28.

Against division:

The Speaker, Messrs. Abernethy, Bradshaw, Clarke, Donagan, Dudley, Griggs, Harvell, Hooker, Jones, Knowles, MacWilliams, Malone, Melton, Morrison, Peadar, Roddenberry, Russell, Smith, Watson, Wells, Wilson of Lee—23.

### HOW MR. WILLIS PLAYED A JOKE ON HIMSELF.

And How Funny it Will be When He Has to Make Himself Square With the Citizens of Montbrook.

Mr. Willis of Levy was up bright and early yesterday morning with a resolution.

If it hadn't been a resolution it would have been an amendment. At any rate it didn't pass.

It is difficult to predict what might occur if one of Mr. Willis' amendments should be adopted. This was a resolution that no petitions should be spread upon the Journal unless they were signed by ladies only.

This happened before Mr. Willis opened his mail.

When he did open his mail he found a string of petitions that occupied the attention of the reading clerk for fifteen minutes, or less, and when the clerk had finished Mr. Willis calmly moved that they be spread upon the Journal.

"I should like to inquire, Mr. Speaker," said Mr. MacWilliams, "if those petitions just read were signed by ladies only?"

The reading clerk affirmed that they were not.

And the laugh was on Mr. Willis of Levy.

And the members found the thing so deucedly amusing that Mr. Willis failed to get his petitions on the Journal at all, and when he goes home to his constituents he will have to explain to the citizens of Montbrook how it came that he was unable to get their names in official print when every other hamlet in the State has won an imperishable place in the archives of the commonwealth by sending petitions to support the anti-cigarette bill.

### SENATE INDORSES BRYAN.

Senator Zim's concurrent resolution, indorsing Wm. J. Bryan for the Presidency, passed the Senate yesterday by a vote of 17 yeas to 9 nays.

The following Senators gave their reasons for voting no:

Senator Adams—Not knowing the wish of the people of Florida.

Senator Baker—Don't feel like pledging Democracy so far in advance.

Senator Humphries—Did we come here to boom any candidate for the Presidency?

Senator Massey—In national convention would vote for Bryan, but do not think we are here for that purpose.

Those giving reasons for yea vote were:

Senator Beard—My only objection to Mr. Bryan is the character of those who would control Federal patronage in Florida if he were elected. Only men who can lead party to victory.

Senator Girardeau—I don't asked to be excused. If I had one hundred votes I would give them all to Bryan.

### TO CHANGE CAPITAL TO LIVE OAK.

No session of the Florida Legislature would be completely rounded out if some attempt was not made to change the seat of the State government.

A resolution was presented in the House yesterday proposing and amendment to Section 1, Article 15, of the Constitution, to be submitted at the general election to be held in November of next year.

Mr. Dorman of Suwannee introduced the resolution, and Live Oak is named as the place to which the State House shall be moved after the first day of July, 1909.

### LEON COUNTY SOIL IS RICH.

Mr. G. W. Haile brought in a sheaf of oats to THE SUN office which stood four feet high and was exceedingly well fruited. These oats were grown on Leon County soil on the lot just in the rear of the court house, without fertilizer and without artificial irrigation. It is perhaps as fine a stand of oats as can be found any where in the State.